



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY Chicago French Market

131 N. Clinton St. 312-575-0306

The market celebrates its birthday with bites from vendors including Pastoral, Vanille Patisserie and Klay Oven Kitchen, plus a champagne toast, live jazz music from Elaine Dame, a tote bag giveaway and a drawing for a trip to Paris. 4-7 p.m. Free.



ADULT XMAS PARTY

The Pony

1638 W. Belmont Ave. 773-828-5055

Get your picture taken with Santa at this bash, which also features a DJ playing holiday music, drink samples and specials including \$5 Fireball whiskey and \$3 Heineken and Newcastle. The best photo wins a Fireball guitar. 8 p.m. No cover.

GREAT LAKES BEER NIGHT

Division Ale House

1942 W. Division St. 773-384-6886

The Wicker Park bar serves \$6-\$10 drafts of seasonal and limited-release beers from the Ohio brewery and awards a \$100 gift certificate to the attendee wearing the tackiest sweater. Donate a nonperishable food item and you'll get a ticket for a raffle for a Great Lakes toboggan and pub mirror. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.



The Playground Theater

3209 N. Halsted St. 773-871-3793

Get a sneak peek of female comedian ensemble Dominizuelan's sketch show, which will be filmed and produced in Chicago and pitched as a TV pilot. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets:

brownpapertickets.com

WINTER BALL Untitled

111 W. Kinzie St. 312-880-1511

Catch performances from breakdancing elves, an acrobatic Santa, a tap-dancing burlesque nutcracker soldier and snow bunny go-go dancers at this holiday variety show. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. RSVP: eventbrite.com



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Katherine Anne Confections hosts a holiday truffle-making party at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. RSVP: katherine-anne.com/parties





U.S., Cuba restore ties after 50 years

Reuters

The United States and Cuba agreed Wednesday to restore diplomatic ties that Washington severed more than 50 years ago, and President Obama called for an end to the long economic embargo against its old Cold War enemy.

After 18 months of secret talks, Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro agreed in a phone call Tuesday on a breakthrough prisoner exchange, the opening of embassies in each other's countries and an easing of some restrictions on commerce.

The two leaders made the announcement in simultaneous televised speeches. The Vatican and Canada facilitated the deal.

Obama's call for an end to the economic embargo drew resistance from Republicans, who will control both houses of Congress from January and who oppose normal relations with the communist-run island.

Obama said he was ending what he called a rigid and outdated policy of isolating Cuba that had failed to achieve change on the island.

His administration's policy shift includes an opening to more commerce in some areas, allowing use of U.S. credit and debit cards, increasing the amount of money that can be sent to Cubans and allowing export of tele-



Miriam Clemente speaks with Bryan Medina as he debates her about the new policy laid out by President Obama. Obama announced Tuesday he wants to normalize relations with Cuba. GETTY IMAGES

communications devices and services.

Travel restrictions that make it hard for most Americans to visit will be eased, but the door will not yet be open for broad tourism.

His announcement also will not end the U.S. trade embargo that has been in force

for more than 50 years. That is codified in legislation and needs congressional approval. Obama said he would seek that approval but likely will face a struggle.

Obama said the opening was made possible by Havana's release of American Alan Gross,

Neither the American, nor Cuban people are well served by a rigid policy that is rooted in events that took place before most of us were born. Consider that for more than 35 years, we've had relations with China—a far larger country also governed by a Communist Party."

 President Obama on Cuba policy change, from a transcript provided by the White House

65, who had been imprisoned in Cuba for five years.

Cuba also is releasing an intelligence agent who spied for the U.S. and was held for nearly 20 years, and the U.S. in return freed three Cuban intelligence agents held in the U.S.

DECADES OF TENSION

Here are some major moments in the history of U.S. relations with Cuba. TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

1958

Fidel Castro and his rebels harass Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's soldiers and spark revolution across the island. Cuban emigres who had been followers of the U.S.-backed Batista come to the U.S.

1959

Castro assumes power. The exodus from the island escalates.

1960

Operation Pedro Pan brings more than 14,000 unaccompanied children to the U.S. over the next two years to escape the communist regime.

1961

President Eisenhower breaks off relations with Cuba on Jan. 3. Later in the year, under President Kennedy, the U.S.-supported Bay of Pigs invasion by anti-Castro exiles fails.

1962

The U.S. imposes full economic

embargo of Cuba. The Cuban missile crisis, sparked by the installation of Soviet missiles in Cuba, brings the world to the brink of nuclear war. Castro blocks travel between the two countries. More then 78,000 asylumseekers flee to the U.S.

1965

President Johnson orders the start of Freedom Flights. Over eight years, these flights bring more than 250,000 exiles to the U.S.

1966

Most Cubans who arrive in the U.S. are allowed to stay and, after two years (later amended to one year), become permanent legal residents—an exception to the way people of other nations are treated.

1980

Castro opens the port of Mariel. Nearly 125,000 Cubans leave the island, most via a massive boatlift.

1984

Cuba agrees to accept the return of 2,746 Cuban criminals and mental patients who came to the U.S. in the

Mariel boatlift. Over the next three decades, Cuba accepts only a small fraction of them.

1994

More than 35,000 rafters flee the island after the collapse of Cuba's patron, the Soviet Union. The U.S. and Cuba sign the

union. The U.S. and Cuba sign the Cuban Migration Agreement under which the U.S. will admit 20,000 Cubans a year.

1995

The U.S. amends the Cuban Adjustment Act to begin a policy known as "wet foot/dry foot." Those found at sea are returned to Cuba unless they can prove they are vulnerable to persecution. Those who make it to U.S. soil are allowed to remain.

1998

President Clinton allows licensing for direct charter flights to Cuba.

1999

Clinton loosens travel restrictions to encourage "people to people" exchanges between Cubans and Americans.

2004

President George W. Bush re-tightens travel restrictions.

2008

Fidel Castro steps down as Cuban president. His brother Raul is elected president by the Cuban National Assembly.

2009

President Obama eases travel restrictions by allowing Cuban-Americans to make unlimited trips to visit relatives and send them any amount of money.

2011

Obama further loosens travel restrictions.

2013

Cuba rescinds its long-standing requirement that Cubans get an exit permit before traveling abroad. U.S. lengthens most visas for visiting Cubans from six months to five years and allows visitors to make multiple visits within those five years. Cubans emigrate at a rate of more than 39,000 a year. The U.S. continues to give legal residence and work permits to Cubans who reach U.S. soil, a special status not extended to people from any other nation.



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'Latinos for Rahm' is an oxymoronic phrase



If you haven't been keeping up with Chicago's mayoral race, I can't say I blame you. It's Hanukmastime, it's been crazy warm (read: not arctic) and a fancy new ice skating park just opened downtown. And then there are some of you who've been watching to see if the Bears can avoid finishing at the bot-

tom of the NFC North.

Ah, another December in Chicago. Still, maybe you've seen headlines announcing Mayor Emanuel's recent endorsements from the city's major Latino political players. While more Latinos disapprove of his administration than support it, according to an August report from the Tribune, the mayor's hoping he can win enough votes from that group to neutralize his low approval rating among black Chicagoans which is worse than Jay Cutler's these days.

That lead to a bizarre scene last weekend. U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, City Clerk Susana Mendoza and state board of education Chairman Gery Chico all took time Sunday to stand in the back room of a Little Village Dulcelandia and tell a room full of reporters—and almost no one else—how much Rahm has helped the city's Latinos.

Given these politicos' pasts, this reversal feels pretty surreal. You may remember Chico as the guy who ran against Emanuel back in 2011, trying to paint President Obama's former chief of staff as a man whose powerful friends had deep pockets, but who was detached from the needs of everyday Chicagoans. Gutierrez is the man who endorsed Chico four years ago, describing him as "a neighborhood guy with neighborhood values"—which implied Rahm wasn't. (Mendoza, to be fair, has been Team Rahm since Day 1.)

For his part, Gutierrez threw everything but the kitchen sink into opposing Emanuel's first mayoral run before the two longtime rivals came together to develop small businesses in Gutierrez's congressional district. And even though Emanuel is viewed by many Latinos as the person responsible for postponing immigration reform during

the opportune early days of Obama's first term, Gutierrez says the mayor has been a strong ally on immigration reform (true) and improving the lives of Chicago's Latinos.

That second claim, however, is tough for a lot of Latinos to believe. The mayor largely has ignored Chicago's poorer neighborhoods (where nearly all of the city's black and Latino residents live), while development of the city center has far outstripped that of communities like Humboldt Park and Little Village. The unemployment rate for whites in the city is 7 percent according to 2013 census figures - compared with 12 percent for Latinos and 25 percent for blacks, higher than any other major city. Though the overall crime rate has fallen somewhat during Emanuel's tenure, Chicago still recorded more murders in 2012 and 2013 than any other city, and most of those were in neighborhoods home to ... well, take a guess.

Then there's the issue of last year's school closures, a sore spot among Latinos, considering nearly all of the 50 schools shuttered were in Latino and black neighborhoods. (Some were in Gutierrez's own district, one of them less than a mile from where Sunday's "Latinos for Rahm" event was held.) The mayor and his supporters claim City Hall was forced to close those schools due to budget constraints; all the while, Rahm's been using public money to finance his pet projects, like the building of two hotels and a basketball arena for DePaul—a private university—near McCormick Place.

I'm sure Chico and Gutierrez have their reasons for their 180s on Emanuel. Chico was, after all, chief of staff to former Mayor Richard M. Daley, Rahm's political patron. And maybe Gutierrez joined Team Rahm this summer as a quid pro quo deal with Obama ahead of the president's executive action on immigration.

But however much Emanuel might want Sunday's performance to convince Latinos that he's their man, they're not buying it. The Tribune's own Bill Ruthhart described the event as "carefully staged," though the room was filled with "50 empty chairs" and protesters' chants of "Fire Rahm!" floated in from outside.

Seems there are more letters in the phrase "Latinos for Rahm" than there are actual Latinos for Rahm.

HECTOR LUIS ALAMO IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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SONY SCRAPS 'THE INTERV

"Is that all it takes—an

the numbers 911-to

throw free expression

under the bus?"

-HBO talk-show host **Bill Maher**, via Twitter

Decision comes after hackers threatened attacks at movie theaters **Chicago Tribune**

Many movies have faced protests over the years, yet the new Seth Rogen-James Franco comedy "The Interview" was deemed to be so potentially dangerous that Sony Pictures Entertainment canceled its Christmas Day release Wednesday after the nation's top theatrical chains announced they wouldn't show it.

Sony's decision—one causing much handwringing inside and outside Hollywood over the anonymous threat and possible precedents being set—followed a threat against theaters from an anonymous group that began reaping corporate destruction in late November by releasing Sony

executives' hacked emails in apparent retaliation for the movie. "The Interview" imagines Franco and Rogen as a talk show host and producer who get entangled in a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The cancelation of a widely promoted Hollywood holiday-season release in response to an anonymous threat set off alarm bells among those inside and outside the creative commu-

"Do we stop releasing every movie that people anonymously say not to release?" filmmaker Judd Apatow, who launched Franco's and Rogen's careers on his 1999-2000 TV series "Freaks and Geeks," told the Tribune from his Los Angeles office. "Tomorrow it could be 'Don't release Pepsi.' It could happen to every business. It's not even a show business question."

Filmmaker and former Chicagoan Adam McKay ("Anchorman") agreed. "It's a very scary and sad moment, not just for the movie world but for the way we live in general," he said via email. "The idea that people gathering in a theater to laugh can be perceived as dangerous, even for a few days, is just unacceptable."

Several news outlets reported late Wednes-

day that U.S. intelligence officials have linked the hackers to the North Korean government.

The group, calling itself Guardians of Peace, issued a warning Tuesday that referred to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and instructed people to stay away from theaters

showing "The Interview."

"We recommend you to keep yourself distant from the places at that time. [If your house is nearby, you'd better leave.]" the message read.

Carmike Cinemas, the nation's fourth-largest theater chain, announced late Tuesday that it would not show the film, and the top three exhibitors-Regal, AMC and Cinemark-followed suit Wednesday.

Sony subsequently announced it was pulling the film, saying in a statement: "We are deeply saddened at this brazen effort to suppress the distribution of a movie, and in the process do damage to our company, our employees, and

HELIFE AND DEATH OF 'T

By Matt Pais | REDEYE



"The Interview" has been a magnet for controversy since plans for the North Korean assassination plot movie were announced in March 2013. Here's a look back at the film's rocky road, from filming to full-fledged firestorm.

MARCH 2013 The movie is announced.

OCT. 2013 Filming begins.

DEC. 2013 Scheduled end of filming

JUNE 20

North Korea slams movie, notes that Kim Jong Un would likely see the film. Rogen tweets "Apparently Kim Jong Un plans on watching #TheInterview. I hope he likes it!!!"

JUNE 25

North Korea calls movie "act of war," promises "merci-. less" retaliation if the movie is released.

JULY 17

North Korea demands that President Obama stop release of the film. Sony reportedly digitally alters buttons worn in the film so that North Koreans don't take

offense.

NOV. 24

Malware used to attack Sony computers.

NOV. 27

Several Sony movies leaked, including "Annie" but not "The Interview.'

DEC.8

Posted email appears to link motivation for hack to "The Interview."

DEC. 10

Sony Pictures Entertainment Japan announces that the movie will not open in Japan.

DEC. 11

LA premiere of the movie takes place without incident.

DEC. 15

Rogen says he doesn't know the extent of the controversy and that the film wasn't intended to be controversial.

the American public. We stand by our filmmakers and their right to free expression and are extremely disappointed by this outcome."

In an interview with ABC News on Wednesday, President Obama called the cyber attack

on Sony "very serious," but suggested the administration has vet to establish the hacker threat to moviegoers as credible. "For now, my recommendation would be that people go to the movies," he said. The FBI, meanwhile, advised in a private document obtained by Reuters

that theaters and other businesses associated with "The Interview" could be targeted in cy-

Chris Johnson, chief executive officer of Downers Grove-based Classic Cinemas, said his chain had planned to show "The Interview" at seven of its 13 local locations until the threat was issued. "Dear Sony Hack-

"When the threat became physical in nature and the hackers invoked 9/11, that changed it for me," Johnson said. "I don't have the resources to combat an unknown force. Does the decision bother me? Yeah, it bothers me. I've never, ever not played a film [because of controversy]. But this has nothing to do with the film's content; it has to do with the threat of violence."

The movie, co-directed by Rogen and Evan Goldberg (whose previous collaboration was last year's apocalypse comedy "This Is the End"), received mixed reviews from its early screenings, with Variety's Scott Foundas on the negative end as he called it "about as funny as a communist food shortage and just as protracted." It is not the first film to depict the assassination of a sitting head of state, though the 2006 British mockumentary "Death of a President," which envisioned President George W. Bush's demise, grossed a mere \$519,000.

> As revealed in leaked leader's head exploding.

didn't think the conflict would have an impact on other movies. "North Korea is a special and really horrifying case," he said. "It's the most twisted and malevolent dictatorship on the planet. ... I still think Seth and Evan are spoton. We should be talking about North Korea."

New Regency has scotched plans for a North Korea-set thriller, "Pyongyang," to star Steve Carell, to be directed by Gore Verbinski and to begin shooting in March.

and other outlets reported that Sony had ruled out a VOD or DVD release, saying in a statement: "Sony Pictures has no further release plans for the film."

Apatow expressed concern over where the newly toppled dominos are headed.

'You can say [the threat] is a terrifying message, and we want to make sure there's no way anyone could get hurt, and that's completely understandable," Apatow said. "But what do you do when this happens again in three

emails, the filmmakers and studio engaged in some tense negotiations over such issues as toning down the graphic nature of the North Korean

Before Sony's decision to pull "The Interview" was announced, McKay said he

Yet Deadline reported Wednesday that

ers: now that u run Hollywood, I'd also Also Wednesday, Variety

-Michael Moore, via Twitter

"Wow. Everyone

caved. The hackers

won. An utter and

complete victory

for them. Wow."

-Rob Lowe, via Twitter

like less romantic

comedies, fewer

Michael Bay mov-

ies and no more

Transformers."

TUESDAY

Hackers threaten an attack comparable to the 9/11 attacks on theaters that show the film; the movie's New York premiere, previously scheduled for Dec. 18, is canceled; Rogen and Franco cancel most of their appearances; Sony gives theater owners a choice of showing the film or not





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/ chicago



People gather for "For Our Fallen," a vigil for victims of police violence at Congress Plaza on the corner of South Michigan Avenue and Congress Parkway on Wednesday. JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE

Map of census data shows Chicagoans' transit habits

By Rachel Cromidas | REDEYE

Chicagoans are more likely to walk to work when they live downtown and in Hyde Park; take the CTA when they're coming from Lakeview or Bucktown; and drive when they're coming from virtually everywhere else.

That's according to a map of 2013 census data on the most dominant mode of transportation used in each of the city's census tracts, produced by Shaun Jacobsen, a graduate student at the University of British Columbia.

The map, which Jacobsen made a year ago using 2012 data and re-created with 2013 data

this week, shows several patterns you may already have assumed if you live in the city: People who live near public transportation, whether it's the Red Line or an express bus route, are more likely to take it to work and leave their cars at home. People who live in the city's north- and western-most communities are more likely to drive or, in a few cases, carpool. And people who live downtown, in the Near North Side or in the South Loop predominantly walk to work, presumably because they can.

RCROMIDAS@TRIBUNE.COM | @RACHELCROMIDAS

Passer-by tosses life preserver to man in water

Chicago Tribune

A passer-by is being credited with saving a man who plunged into the Chicago River early Wednesday by tossing him a life preserver.

Seth Rems said he was walking home from work in the Loop about 1 a.m. when he heard someone yell that a man had jumped in the river between Madison and Randolph streets.

"So I ran over there and tried to do whatever I could to help him," Rems said.

Rems said he knew there was a life preserver on the bridge, so he grabbed a piece of concrete and smashed the glass case, grabbed the preserver and tossed it down to the man.

"I'm just glad I knew where the preserver was and that I was able to get it open quick enough, man," Rems told a reporter. "I know it's really cold down there right now, and I wanted to help get that guy out of there."

The Chicago Fire Department reached the Madison Street bridge within minutes and found the man in the water clutching the life preserver. Authorities said the man had jumped into the river.







HOMICIDE TRACKER

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Eighteen homicides were reported in Chicago in the past two weeks, with the Humboldt Park community area on the West Side recording three killings, the most of any Chicago community, a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data found.



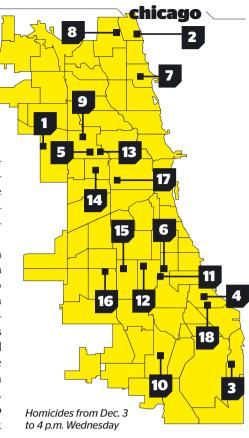
A 23-year-old man was shot to death Monday in the 700 block of North Kedzie Avenue, police said. Three days earlier, a 28-year-old man was killed in the 1300 block of North Springfield Avenue.

On Dec. 8, a 19-year-old man was shot to death in the 900 block of North Central Park Avenue, police said. All three victims were documented gang members, police said.

Humboldt Park, which counted about 56,300 residents in the 2010 Census, has 25 reported homicides so far this year, tying with West Englewood on the South Side for the second highest homicide toll of Chicago's 77 community areas behind Austin on the West Side, according to RedEye data.

Humboldt Park recorded 14 homicides last year, down from 18 killings in 2012, a RedEye analysis found.

- 600 BLOCK OF N. MAYFIELD AVE. Date: Dec. 3 Cause: Gunshot
- 1200 BLOCK OF W. ALBION AVE. Date: Dec. 5 Cause: Gunshot
- 3500 BLOCK OF E. 107TH ST. Date: Dec. 5 Cause: Gunshot
- 7400 BLOCK OF S. EUCLID AVE. Date: Dec. 5 Cause: Gunshot
- 900 BLOCK OF N. CENTRAL PARK AVE. Date: Dec. 8 Cause: Gunshot
- 6100 BLOCK OF S. WABASH AVE. Date: Dec. 9 Cause: Gunshot
- 1100 BLOCK OF W. WILSON AVE. Date: Dec. 9 Cause: Gunshot
- 2200 BLOCK OF W. FARWELL AVE. Date: Dec. 11 Cause: Stabbing
- 9 1300 BLOCK OF N. SPRINGFIELD AVE. Date: Dec. 12 Cause: Gunshot
- 10400 BLOCK OF S. STATE ST. Date: Dec. 12 Cause: Gunshot



Meanwhile, two men were fatally shot in separate incidents in the South Shore community on the South Side, according to officials.

The other gunshot homicides were spread across the city, and there was a stabbing fatality Dec. 11 in West Ridge, police said. Eighteen homicides have been reported so far this month. Forty homicides were reported in December 2013, according to a RedEye analysis.

- FIRST BLOCK OF W. 63RD ST. Date: Dec. 13 Cause: Gunshot
- 5800 BLOCK OF S. MORGAN ST. Date: Dec. 15 Cause: Gunshot
- 700 BLOCK OF N. KEDZIE AVE. Date: Dec. 15 Cause: Gunshot
- 3300 BLOCK OF W. CONGRESS PKWY. Date: Dec. 16 Cause: Gunshot
- 5900 BLOCK OF S. WOLCOTT AVE. Date: Dec. 16 Cause: Gunshot
- 5900 BLOCK OF S. FAIRFIELD AVE. Date: Dec. 17 Cause: Gunshot
- 2400 BLOCK OF W. OGDEN AVE. Date: Dec. 17 Cause: Gunshot
- 2100 BLOCK OF E. 79TH ST.

 Date: Dec. 17 Cause: Gunshot

MORE ONLINE

Check out RedEye's interactive homicide map at **redeyechicago.com/homicides**.







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Obamas reveal racism experiences

Before becoming president, Barack Obama had trouble catching cabs in Chicago, first lady Michelle Obama told People magazine in an interview that adds the first family's personal experiences to the discussion about race in America in the wake of the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

People forget that the first family has lived in the White House for only six years, Michelle Obama told the magazine in a Dec. 10 interview with the president and the first lady, according to a short article published on **people.com**.

"Before that, Barack Obama was a black man that lived on the South Side of Chicago, who had his share of troubles catching cabs," Michelle Obama told the magazine.

Another time, while wearing a tuxedo at a black-tie dinner, Barack Obama was asked to get coffee, according to the first lady.

The president also discussed racial stereotyping, saying, "There's no black male my age who's a professional, who hasn't come out of a restaurant and is waiting for their car and somebody didn't hand them their car keys."

He told People he has experienced the same thing. Although the Obamas said the situation has improved, they added that much more still needs to be done.

"The small irritations or indignities that we experience are nothing compared to what a previous generation experienced," the president said.

"It's one thing for me to be mistaken for a waiter at a gala. It's another thing for my son to be mistaken for a robber and to be handcuffed, or worse, if he happens to be walking down the street and is dressed the way teenagers dress."

The interview coincided with protests after a grand jury in the New York City borough of Staten Island decided not to charge a white police officer over the death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man, who was killed in a chokehold in July. There were also protests after a Missouri grand jury in late November declined to indict a white police officer in the shooting death in August of an unarmed black man, Michael Brown.



Pakistan buries attack victims

A day after Taliban gunmen carried out a massacre at the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan, families buried students and staff members, doctors worked to save scores of wounded and Pakistan's prime minister vowed to fight "until all terrorists are defeated." The death toll stands at 148. including 132 children.

Uber plans tighter screening for drivers

Online taxi service Uber Technologies, one of whose driver was accused of rape in New Delhi, India, said it would add new methods to verify drivers' credentials and make its service safer. Uber has started research and development on biometrics and voice verification to build tools for enhanced driver screening, Phillip Cardenas, the company's global safety head, wrote in a blog

NCAA concussion deal denied

A federal judge has denied a proposed \$70 million class action settlement between the NCAA and former college athletes who claim to have suffered long-term harm from concussions, saying he was concerned about the fairness of the agreement. Another \$5 million would have been set aside for research into sports-related concussions.

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Crawford. The guy has a Stanley Cup and is enjoying arguably his best regular season ever despite that whole concert/leg injury thing.

But to have not one but two backups who are performing just as well? That's practically a miracle. Crawford, Antti Raanta and Scott Darling (shoutout: He was sent down to Rockford on Wednesday) are three reasons why the Hawks have won 15 of their past 18 games.

HELMET STYLE

Crawford: Understated.

Raanta: Stripey. Darling: Feathery.

2014 RECORD

Crawford: 12-5-1 Raanta:

5-2-0 Darling: 5-2-0

13 teams in his career.

AVE PERCENTAGE

Crawford: 929 (ninth in NHL)

Raanta; .938 (fourth) Darling: .937 (seventh)

GOALS-AGAINST AVERAGE

Crawford: 1.87 (seventh) Raanta: 2.01 (ninth) Darling: 1.97 (eighth)

NOTE: ALL STATS AND RANKINGS ARE THROUGH TUESDAY.

LENNY GIL MORE

fiveonfive

COVERED

Welp, the Cubs might as well go and win the World Series now, right?



Pais @mettpeis RedEye movies and music guy



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1	What was Jon Lester thinking when Sports Illustrated put him on the cover?	"There is no way this can blow up in any of our faces. Unless crap."	He's thinking about whether he could buy SI with his \$155 million.	"I know I'm better than the last two Cubs pitchers who were on the SI cover. My arm won't fall off."	"Hopefully I can help this fran- chise win a championship!"	"Meh, it's fine. No 'cover curse' can make this team's history any worse."
2	What's the first thing the Sox's latest signees should do now that they're in town?	Wish they were on the Cubs.	There is NO ketchup on a real Chicago-style hot dog.	Get to know where all the speed carneras are.	Go to the top of Willis Tower and jump up and down on the Skydeck!	Stay away from the RedEye of- fice. The 2014 RedEye Plague is in full swing.
3	Patrick Kane is so pumped about fantasy football	he fist-pumps while wearing pumps to the Pump Room. Which may violate the dress code.	he might sit through an entire Bears game. Unlike Da Coach.	that he's going to break the all-time scoring record this sea- son. Watch out, Gretzky!	He is?l	because he's been taking ad- vice from Jay St. Pierre. I hear THAT GUY is a fantasy football guru.
4	Who should take over Sprint's NASCAR sponsorship after Sprint bows out?	I've never answered a NASCAR question, and I don't intend to start now.	Willis, so people will still call it Sprint's NASCAR.	Wal-Mart. Think about it. It's fitting.	A beer company, NASCAR peo- ple love beerl	2 Chainz, just because I hope he'd change the name to "NASCARZ."
5	Whom is this quote about: "His persona is that he's a laid-back guy. That's the last thing he is."	Would be helpful if I knew the first thing this guy is.	Santa Claus. He's a real meany to the elves back at the North Pole. Shith, don't tell the kids!	The guy who shoved George McCaskey?	Jay _	Jay Cutter because he actu- ally seems like a jerk.









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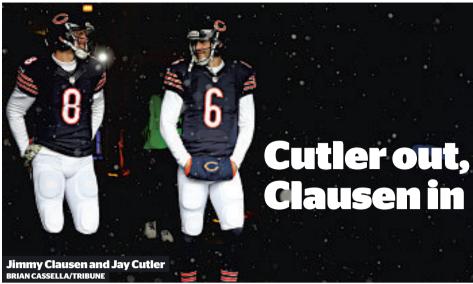
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Chicago Tribune

The Bears have benched quarterback Jay Cutler and plan to start Jimmy Clausen against Detroit on Sunday, a person with knowledge of the situation confirmed to the Tribune on Wednesday. ESPN first reported the news.

The move, which comes in the death throes of a season in ruins, is a seismic shift for an organization that has exalted Cutler as its franchise quarterback.

In January, general manager Phil Emery signed Cutler to a seven-year, \$126.7 million that includes \$54 million guaranteed.

Cutler, however, leads the NFL with 24 turnovers. His inconsistency is a big reason why the Bears are 5-9 and their offense failed to match expectations despite returning all 11 starters from a unit that ranked third in the NFL in yards per play during coach Marc Trestman's debut campaign in 2013.

Trestman for weeks has defended Cutler's status as the starting quarterback. However, he did not directly address the issue during his Wednesday news conference when he was asked about ESPN analyst Jon Gruden's assertion that Cutler should be benched.

"Jon certainly has a right to his opinion, and each and every week we go through our evaluations all the way around, and as I said, Jon's got a right to his opinion," Trestman said.

The embattled coach did say, though, that it's "evident" he hasn't gotten the best out of Cutler.

"Am I working at it? Yes," Trestman said. "We've seen moments, but we haven't done it on a consistent basis. I can't hide from that. I haven't been able, and we haven't been able to do the things that we want to get done. We're working towards that."

NOAH TO RETURN VS. KNICKS After missing the past four games with injuries, Bulls center Joakim Noah said he will play Thursday against New York at the United Center. "My knee feels good," Noah said. "This is more of my ankle. I think it was good just to get some lifts and just take care of my body during this time, let it heal, and I feel pretty good and I'm excited to be able to play [Thursday]."

Conte: Football trumps all

Bears safety Chris Conte, who has a history of concussions from playing football, said Wednesday he would pick playing the sport he loves despite the health risks. "I'd rather have the experience of playing and, who knows, die 10, 15 years earlier than not be able to play in the NFL and live a long life," he told WBBM-AM 780.

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By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

Constraint is often the mother of invention, and it's nice to know that Chicago winters don't dampen the entrepreneurial spirit. At least that's the picture Nida Rodriguez, owner of The Slide Ride food truck, paints of her new Avondale french fry emporium, Frite Street. "Mobile has its difficulties," she said. "Ultimately, I wanted a space where if it's 30 degrees below zero, we didn't have to feel like we had to drive around the city to make money." Frite Street sounds like a nice warming shelter from the storm, but would it also bring the culinary heat? I stopped in to find out.

The scene: The crimson-painted dining room is outfitted with a butcher block-style table that's slightly too high for the low-slung seating. As I dug into huge white cardboard takeout boxes of fries (each loaded with more than a pound of potatoes), I felt a little like a tiny Alice nosing up to the giant banquet table of the Mad Hatter. Billed as a "french fry dive," Frite Street's iron-barred front window, white ceramic tile sullied by the dirty footprints of recent customers and crate of \$1 vinyl LPs definitely live up to the description. Chef de cuisine Chris Graham is a record junkie, and that bin serves as the restaurant's soundtrack, spun on the player located behind the counter. Mid-meal, Graham put on a scratchy side of vintage DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, whereby Will Smith gave props to all the Philly MCs that inspired him. At a minimum, I now know who to blame for "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It." Not everything here is dingy, though. A smattering of obligatory Eiffel Tower iconography and a quote from Audrey Hepburn that reminds all who dine that "Paris is always a good idea" lend some brightness.

The frites: You know what's also always a good idea? French fries, aka frites. Frite Street mostly reinforces that fact by serving up pretty awesome frites that are sea-salted,

blanched and double fried so that the inside is puffy and the outside is crispy. So many spots serve a slightly fatter-than-a-Off to a good start shoestring fry that sogs under all the toppings. The choice to 3006 N. Elston Ave go thicker is a smart one in the case of the Korean frites (\$7), where slabs of crispy pork belly, tangy kimchi and creamy garlic aioli would ruin any lesser fry. They might even be better than the kimchi fries I've always liked at Lakeview restaurant Del Seoul.

On paper, the chicken-fried frites—butter-

Frite Street

312-925-1911

milk-battered, deep-fried frites served with a side of bacon-studded gravy (\$7) — sound like a stoner's dream. In reality, the fried crust is dusty and reminiscent of that weird coating

> you sometimes find on frozen seasoned fries, though the silky gravy would make a flaky biscuit pretty happy.

The best gravy on offer is the curry-infused one served on the Curry Jane frites (\$5). Beefy, thick and spicy, the dish is almost like a french fry shepherd's pie, minus the peas. The only problem is

after about 10 minutes, the salty gravy blends with the thick crystals of sea salt on the fries, devolving into an over-salty mess. The solution? Eat 'em fast.

The sliders: Though fries are usually a side

dish to burgers, the opposite occurs here. You can order three of The Slide Ride's most popular sliders (\$3 each) as "slider sides." They are beefy beauties grilled medium-pink and perched on fresh, tiny sesame-studded buns baked by Highland Baking in north-suburban Northbrook. The Guinness slider is a perfect little package topped with gooey provolone, Guinness-infused onions and horseradish sauce. A barbecue pork slider featured meltin-your-mouth braised pork with a sauce that was a little too cloying, something the pickle slice on top couldn't offset.

The service: Counter maven Angelica Apodaca—with fire-engine red lipstick, a sing-songy voice and a big bow in her thick ringlet-adorned hairdo—rocks the vintage pin-up girl look. She was attentive and

helpful, offering up dipping sauces (I really liked the banana ketchup) and details about off-menu specials. "That's her personal style," Rodriguez said. "We knew her from another food truck. When she came in to interview with us, she wore this vintage red dress with black polka dots and looked a little like the French girl in our logo. She was made for this."

Bottom line: With a few exceptions, Frite Street serves up some serious french fry fantasy and a side of pretty good sliders. File this under "Another score for Avondale" alongside Honey Butter Fried Chicken and Kuma's Corner.

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'Super Smash Bros.' keeps on fighting

By Todd Martens | LOS ANGELES TIMES My relationship with Nintendo is maybe not as healthy as it should be. Yet there is one Wii U game in heavy rotation that I didn't expect to be there.

That game is "Super Smash Bros.," a button-smashing, jump-and-sock 'em extravaganza of punching, kicking and crazy moves with nonsense titles such as the "Peach blossom" and "konga beat." There are fights at haunted mansions, fights in suburban streets and fights around space lava.

If one wants a respite from all the fights, there is a board-game mode—but if your digital character lands on the space of another digital character, there are fights. Sometimes, when a fight ends, you will be told a new challenger has materialized from some Nintendo multiverse, and there will be an abbreviated post-fight fight.

"Smash" is, in many ways, pointless—ridiculous, even. And yet this fighting game keeps demanding the one thing I know I shouldn't be giving it: time. Way more time, in fact, than someone in their mid-30s should be devoting to a game that's little more than a glorified battlefield arena. But dang it if I don't love watching Princess Peach swipe her arm and chirp "peachy!" at the conclusion of one of our two-minute matches.

Part of this appeal, no doubt, is nostalgia. For anyone raised with a Nintendo console acting as a backup baby sitter, "Smash Bros." carries with it the appeal of reminiscence. Simple things, such as seeing familiar characters like a more revealing Samus from "Metroid" attacking a gelatinous "Pokemon" blob, tap into the charm offensive that long

has been Nintendo's front line of attack. Even the baddies are adorable: Bowser Jr. conducts his fights from a car that looks like a teacup.

Nintendo has reported that "Smash" was the fastest-selling Wii U game in the history of the relatively new (2012) console, having moved just shy of 500,000 copies during the Thanksgiving shopping weekend. Surely it's not just me and 12-year-old boys who find "Smash" irresistible.

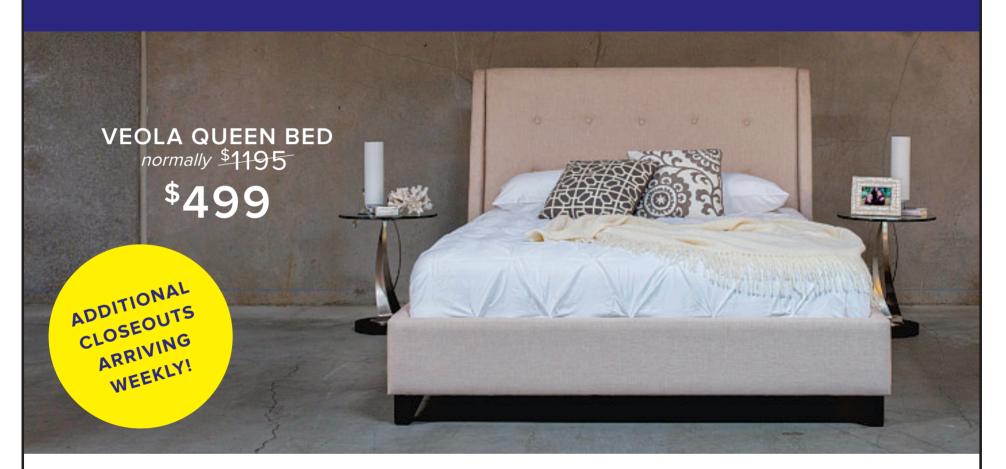
Perhaps never before has the Nintendo stable shown as much personality as it does in "Smash." Characters who have no business being characters in multiple games, such as the mannequin-like trainer from "Wii Fit," is a Zen-like master of effortless gliding and yoga moves. The game rewards deep play with little touches as well—I was many weeks into "Smash" before I noticed the Mary Poppins-meets-Taylor Swift-like Princess Peach, my go-to character, would flutter her arms to maintain her balance when she was near an edge.

More important, "Smash" furthers an agenda the Wii U has had since Day I. No other console is as suited to playing with friends, at least those sitting beside you on the couch. Not every Wii U game boasts cooperative play—see the delightfully plucky puzzle game "Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker," for instance—but the Wii U constantly is honing its thesis that the best way to play is with people you can see.

Now that that's settled, let's see whether Princess Peach can't get some more revenge on her regular kidnapper, Bowser—for the 17th time today.

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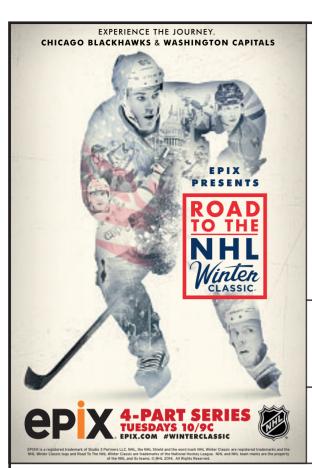
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ALBUM REVIEW



Black Messia D'Angelo and the Vanguard

By Matt Pals

Perhaps the only comeback more anticipated than an artist who hasn't released a new album in nearly 15 years is, uh, the return of an even higher power.

So for D'Angelo, the R&B star whose sophomore album,

2000's "Voodoo," is a near-undisputed classic, to at last deliver his follow-up with the title

"Black Messiah" is huge. (To be fair, he could have called the album "Who Cares?" and it still would be a big deal.) Yet the now-40-year-old singer's third album, released under the name D'Angelo and the Vanguard, is neither religious experience nor Kanye-esque self-endorsement. It's a call to action that recognizes how often opportunities end before we're ready—if we even have them at all.

"I just wanna go back, baby/Back to the way it was," he sings on "Back to the Future (Part I)," the album's most direct request to recapture an earlier, easier time. But D doesn't flatly endorse the past as preferable: "So if you're wondering about the shape I'm in," he continues on that track, "I hope it ain't my abdomen that you're referring to." Though years removed from his undesired sex-symbol status, the guy certainly still has the power make listeners feel romantic. The intimate "Really Love" will have many, many couples de-

claring it their song as a Spanish guitar opening gives way to harp and strings amid a laid-back snap. Later, "Betray My Heart" is tight, sweet sincerity, flirting with becoming merely nice until a late horn breakdown brings it somewhere more special. Too bad D (whose 2000 performance at the Chicago Theatre remains the best concert I've ever attended) sounds so unconcerned with why a lover leaves in opener "That Ain't Easy" and creepily compares his lady to a newborn in the loose, funky "Sugah Daddy."

Yet love is only a central theme here as it relates to its elusiveness in a complicated world. The restless, undeniable thump of "1000

Deaths" and jangly, mellow groove of the lyrically devastating "Charade" ("All we wanted was a chance to talk/Stead we only got outlined in chalk/Feet have bled a million miles we've walked/Revealing at the end of the day/The charade") deliver a backeto-back wallop of soulful social disappointment and motivation. "Black Messiah"

doesn't offer that complexity and adventurousness throughout —"The Door" is a little too simple, and closer "Another Life" rides a warm-but-ordinary yamp.

But D'Angelo's return isn't a disappointment just because it's not the greatest album ever/on par with "Brown Sugar" and "Voodoo." His voice still sounds incredible. For a long time there was a very good chance that he'd never release anything else again. And with the varied stylistic approaches on "Black Messiah," it's fitting that the record generates both comfort and unease.

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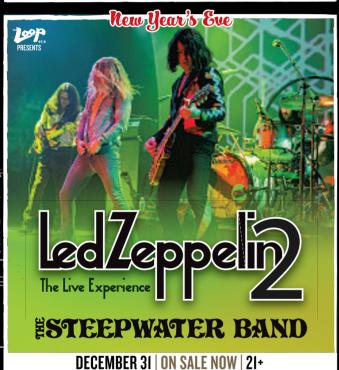
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* Nikki Lane, Jonny Fritz, Thursday, Feb. 12 (\$12-\$14, 21+) at Double Door.

* Bussian Circles Friday, Jan. 30 (\$18) \$20, 18+) at Metro.

The Green, Through the Roots, Saturday. Feb. 7 (\$18-\$20, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.



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G - General audience PG - Parental guidence suggested R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying

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600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily &
The Hunger Games (PG-13) B 11:10, 200, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) * 12:30, 2:45, 7:30, 9:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) * D 10:00, 4:00, 6:15, 11:00
The Hunger Games: Mockinglay, Part 1 (PG-13) B 12:20, 3:10
Interstellar (PG-13) B 2:00, (10:15)
Interstellar (PG-13) B 2:00, (10:15)

■Interstellar (PG-13) B 3.00, 10:10

■Exotus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ B 12:15
■Exotus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ B 12:15
■Exotus: Gods and Kings 30 (PG-13) ★ B 11:15, 2:20, 3:45, 7:20, 10:00
■Exotus: Gods and Kings 30 (PG-13) ★ B 11:15, 2:20, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30
■Top Five (Ps. → B 10:00), 12:20, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
■Interstellar (PG-13) B 11:20, 6:30

600 N. Michigan Ave., (888-AMC-4FUN

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago (773) 509-4949 Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) (Closed caption) 1:30,

425, 10:10

Whiplash (R) (Closed caption) 4:05, 9:30

The Theory of Everything (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05

The Imitation Game (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00

Whild (R) (Closed caption) 1:34, 0:07, 7:09, 9:45

The Imitation Game (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:45, 7:10, 10:05

■ Wild (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 6:45 ■ Foxcatcher (R) (Closed caption) 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

C11 Y NUK IH 14 (RELGAL)
2500 N. Western Ave.
■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★
11:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30
■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 7:00, 9:45
■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:45, 7:30, 8:30, 11:00
■Annie (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 6:00, 9:00

■Anner (Fc) ▼ (Lobeset Capiton) 50.0, 300 (PG-13) ★ (Closed Capiton) 4:15, 11:2
■Exodus: Gods and Kings (FG-13) ★ (Closed Capiton) 1:15, 30.7,735, 11:15
■Exodus: Gods and Kings 30 (FG-13) ★ (Closed Capiton) 1:15, 20.0, 735, 11:15
■Codus: Gods and Kings 30 (FG-13) ★ (Closed Capiton) 1:15, 12:05, 2:30, 3:30, 6:05, 7:05, 9:35, 10:35
■Top Five (F) ★ (Closed Capiton) 1:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45

Florible Boses 2 (R) ★ (Closed Caption) 11:30, 0-45, 7:30, 10:15 #Penguins of Madagascar (PG) ★ (Closed Caption) 14:40, 2:20, 5:00, 11:15 #Penguins of Madagascar (PG) ★ (Closed Caption) 11:10, 2:21, 4:40, 7:15, 10:50 #The Hunger Games: Mockingly, Part 1 (PG-13) (Closed Caption) 11:10, 12:1 2:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10 #Blumb and Dumber To (PG-13) (Closed Caption) 11:05

■Big Hero 6 (PG) (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:55 ■Interstellar (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:25, 3:10, 6:55, 9:45

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

(773) 784-0893

(17/3) 744-0893
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (F) 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PC-13) 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armise (PC-13) * 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) * 4:50, 7:30, 10:15

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

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■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:00, 2:30, 5:45, 8:15
■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ 10:100, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15
■The Hunger Games: Mockinglay, Part 1 (PG-13) Ď 12:00, 3:00, 6:15, 9:15
■Penguins of Madagascar (PG) Ď 1:45, 4:15

■Penguins of Madagascar 3D (PG) 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 9:30

■Big Hero 6 (PG) £ 12:45, 6:45 ■ Big Hero 6 (PG) ₺ 12:45, 6:45 ■ Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ ₺ 7:00, 9:30 ■ Annie (PG) ★ ₺ 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00

■Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ D 1:30, 2:45, 7:30, 8:45 ■Horrible Bosses 2 (R) D 12:30, 3:15

■ Dumb and Dumber To (PG-13) £ 12:00, 4:45, 6:00 ■ Big Hero 6 3D (PG) £ 3:45, 9:45

■Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) ★ £ 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

■The Pyramid (R) £ 1:00, 4:20, 6:45, 10:00

■Top Five (R) ★ ₱ 12:00, 12:45, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:00

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628

■ Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:10, 10:20 ■ Gone Girl (R) 4:05, 10:05

■Interstellar (PG-13) 3:00, 6:55, 8:50 ■Isn't It Delicious (NR) 2:00, 6:00

ged (PG-13) 10:30

■Whiplash (R) 2:00, 4:00, 6:15, 8:25

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC) 888-AMC-4FIIN

Show times change daily

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) * 10:00, 1:30, 3:15, 5:00,

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ £ 11:45, 12:30, 4:00, 7:30,

| ■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ B 11:45, 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:15, 11:30

■ The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) B 10:45, 12:40, 1:45, 3:30, 4:45, 7:45, 9:30

■ Penguins of Madagascar (PG) B 1:50, 10:45

■ Penguins of Madagascar 3D (PG) 10:20, 4:15

■ Bigh tero (FG) 10:00, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15

■ Might at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ B 7:00, 8:00, 10:00

■ AMC Independent Foxecather (PI) B 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40

■ Exotus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ B 11:30, 2:50, 6:15, 9:45

■ Horrible Bosses 2 (PI) B 10:00, 12:40, 3:15, 10:30

■ AMC Independent PK (NR) ★ B 7:00

■ AMC Independent PK (NR) ★ B 7:00

■ AMC Independent PK (NR) ★ B 7:00

■ AMC Independent The Theory of Everything (PG-13) B 10:05, 12:55, 3:45, 6:35, 9:55

■ AMC Independent The Theory of Everything (PG-13) £ 10:05, 12:55, 3:45, 6:35, 9:50 ■AMC Independent Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (R) £ 10:25,

1:25, 6:40, 10:05 ■AMC Independent The Imitation Game (PG-13) ★ Ð 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00,

3:00, 4:00, 5:05, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 10:00, 11:00 ■AMC Independent Wild (R) ₱ 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:10

■AMC Independent Nightcrawler (R) Ð 10:30, 1:15, 4:15, 10:25 ■Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) Ð 10:10, 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50 ■Top Five (R) ★ ₱ 10:00, 11:10, 12:30, 1:40, 3:00, 4:10, 5:45, 8:30, 9:30, 11:00
■Back in Time (NR) ★ ₱ 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 10:55

MUSIC BOX

(773) 871-6604

Force Majeure (R) 5:00, 9:30

■Point and Shoot (NR) 7:30

■It's a Wonderful Life (PG) 6:30

■White Christmas (NR) 3:20, 9:40

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ 10:45, 1:15, 4:45, 8:15
■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:15 ■The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) D 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00,

3:00, 11:00

■Penguins of Madagascar (PG) £ 10:40, 11:30, 4:20

■Penguins of Madagascar 3D (PG) 1:50, 6:50 ■Big Hero 6 (PG) £ 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★

■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ ₺ 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30.

■Annie (PG) ★ Ð 6:00, 7:00, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30

■Interstellar (PG-13) £ 10:50, 2:30, 6:20, 10:00

Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) D 11:20, 2:40, 6:00, 9:30 ■Horrible Bosses 2 (R) € 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 9:20

■ AMC Independent The Theory of Everything (PG-13) B 1:20, 4:20, 10:50
■ AMC Independent Wild (R) ★ B 11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:55

■Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:40, 12:00, 2:00, 3:30, 5:20, 8:40

■The Pyramid (R) £ 10:40, 2:50, 5:20

■Top Five (R) £ 10:40, 12:10, 1:00, 2:10, 3:30, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago ■Annie (PG) ★ (Closed cantion) 6:10, 9:00

■ Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 7:00, 9:40 ■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:30, 4.00 7.30 11.00

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 1:00. 4:30. 8:00

■Executes Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:00 ■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:15 7:00 10:30

■The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:50,

■Big Hero 6 (PG) (Closed caption) 11:10, 4:20, 9:20

■Big Hero 6 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:40, 6:50 ■Interstellar (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:05, 2:40, 6:15, 9:50

■Gone Girl (R) ★ (Closed caption) 12:40, 3:50

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ 3:00. 6:30.

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ £ 2:00, 5:30,

7:30, 9:00

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) D 1:10, 3:10, 4:10

■ The number carnes: wicksingsey, Part 1 (PG-13) t ■ Penguins of Madagascar (PG) B 2:50 ■ Penguins of Madagascar 30 (PG) B 12:50 ■ Penguins of Madagascar 30 (PG) 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 ■ Big Hero 6 (PG) B 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ む 7:00. 9:30

nie (PG) + Fleinn oinn

■ Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ ₱ 7:00, 10:15 ■ Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ ₱ 2:45, 6:00, 9:15

■Horrible Bosses 2 (R) D 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

■Dumb and Dumber To (PG-13) ft 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

■Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) ★ Ð 3:45 ■Top Five (R) ★ Ð 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago

(312) 564-2104 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption

12:00. 3:30. 7:00. 10:30 ■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 3.00 6.30 10.00

bit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00
■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30

Expution 1:30, 5:00, 8:30

Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) * (Closed caption) 12:15, 3:45, 10:40

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:40

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:30, 6:00, 9:30

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption)

■ The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★ (Clo 1:00, 2:00, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00, 9:00 ■Penguins of Madagascar (PG) (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:10 ■Big Hero 6 (PG) (Closed caption) 1:10, 4:00

■high at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10
■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30
■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 12:10 ■Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ (Closed caption)

■Annie (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 6:00, 9:00, 11:00, 12:00

■ Interstellar (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:20, 10:35 ■ Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:50, 7:10 ■ Horrible Bosses 2 (R) (Closed caption) 2:40, 5:20 ■Wild (B) ★ (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 ■Top Five (R) ★ (Closed caption) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

VIP Premium 21+

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) VIP Premium 21+ 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00

obit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) * (Closed caption) VIII

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cerrnak., Cicero (800) 326-3264 #1644 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) * 1:45. 5:15

8:00, 9:00

#The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) B 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

#The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) B 15:5, 7:25

#Penguins of Madagascar (PG) B 1:10, 3:40, 6:30

#Big Harro 6 (PG) B 1:10, 3:46, 6:30, 10:25

■Big Hero 6 (PG) 9 1:10, 3:45, 6:30, 10:25

• Might at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) ★ B 7:00, 9:40

• Annie (PG) ★ B 6:00, 9:00

• Exodus: Boss and Kings (PG-13) ★ B 2:45, 8:15, 9:15

• Hornible Bosses 2 (R) B 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35

• Boumb and Dumber To (PG-13) B 12:0, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

• AMO, Independent St. Vincent (PG-13) ₱ (Closed caption) 4:25

• Prante 5 Brave (R) 2:25, 5:30, 7:45, 10:01

• Exodus: Goods and Kings 30 (PG-13) ₱ 10:00, 4:40

• Exodus: Goods and Kings 30 (PG-13) ₱ 10:00, 4:40

• The Yyarmid (R) ₱ 12:20, 4:45, 9:40,

→ me ryrantu (H) D 12:30, 4:45 ■Top Five (R) ★ Ð 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:30 ■Interstellar (PG-13) Ð 12:45

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC) 1022 Lake Street, Oak Park (630) 444-FILM #560

(630) 444-FILM #560

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:00, 6:50 (FG-13) (FG-13) (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:00 (FG-13) (F

| In the Hullinger Leatines. Michael 1975,

FVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30 ■Penguins of Madagascar (PG) € (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45,

■Penguins of Madagascar 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 11:55, 2:15, 4:35,

6:55, 9:15 ■ The Theory of Everything (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:40, 4:55,

7:45, 10:35 ■The Imitation Game (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 11:30, 12:50, 2:10, 3:30, 4:50, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50, 10:15 **Wild** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:00, 12:25, 1:45, 3:10, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 8:40,

10.45 ■Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) B (Closed caption) 10.45, 2.05, 8.45 ■Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12.20, 3.40, 5.25, 7.00, 10.20 ■ The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) B (Closed caption) 10.155, 5.10, 8.25 ■ The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) B 12.15, 3.45, 7.00,

bbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) £ (Closed caption) 10:40.

■The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG-13) 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30

164 State Street (312) 846-2800 The Tale of the Princess Kaguya (PG) 6:00 The Tale of the Princess Kaguya (PG) 8:00 Sagrada - The Mystery of Creation (NR) 8:30 The Two Faces of January (PG-13) 6:00









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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1865: The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect. 1971: Jesse Jackson announced in Chicago the founding of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

2012: Bank robbers Joseph Banks and Kenneth Conley used bedsheets to rappel 15 stories of a high-rise federal jail in Chicago in a daring jailbreak. (They were both later captured.)

ACROSS

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 "_bigger and better
 things!"
 Thrill
 "_gir!"; new parents' cry
 Flying saucers, for short
 Soft drinks
 Fox or foxhound

- 24 Afternoon socials 25 Hoodlum 26 Mean woman in a fairy
- 25 Hoodlum
 26 Mean woman in a fairy tale
 29 "An of prevention is worth..."
 30 Misery
 31 Bleacher levels
 32 __down; diets
 __successfully
 37 Black___peas
 39 Wise men
 41 ___up; absorb
 42 Bank vaults
 44 Xenon & argon
 46 Nintendo video game
 __console
 47 Police car's blaring device
 49 Competitors
 51 Indulgent grandma, often
 54 Cougar
 55 19th-century U.S.
 __President
 56 Meekness
 50 In addition
 61 Fashionable
 63 Agile, nimble
 64 In __ of, as a substitute for
 65 Sound the horn
 66 Like some elephants
 67 Plenty
 68 Baseball's Mel and his
 family
 60 Takes a nan

- family 69 Takes a nap

DOWN

- On _ own; independent Sport played on horseback
- Frog's cousin Manor and the land
- around it
 5 Most profound

65

- Lay's potato _ Swats Commercials Church official Gives advice to

42

- 10 Gives advice to
 11 Not qualified
 12 Gem
 13 Baffling question
 21 Desert refuge
 23 Kindergartner's recitation
 25 Thinks deeply
- 25 Thinks deeply 26 Runs up a tab

- 27 Spanish artist
 28 Coral ridge
 29 Keyboard instrument
 32 Gung ho
 34 Des Moines,
 35 Postman's load
 36 Footwear for Jean-Claude Killy
 38 of; wanting
 40 Watery part of the blood
 43 Fodder tower
 45 Alike

63

66

35

- 48 Resound 50 Suitcase 51 Tiny 52 FDR's affliction 53 Beginning 54 Hockey disks 56 Helpful clue 57 "_what it is" 58 This and_ 59 Strong urges 62 Extremely spicy





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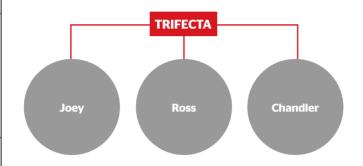


whoville

They'll be there for you

Who will we choose in Bang, Marry, Kill: 'Friends' edition? RedEye

Those of you not living under a Netflix rock already are aware of this, but here's a little reminder: Thursday marks exactly two weeks until all 10 seasons of "Friends" are released for streaming. To help pass the time until that glorious moment, RedEye staffers participated in a little game of Bang, Marry, Kill with some of the show's biggest characters. (Yes, we know it's traditionally [Bleep], not Bang, but, you know, family newspaper and all.) Check out the responses below and see if you agree with our steamy assessments.



BANG: Chandler MARRY: Ross KILL: Joey

Ross is geeky and smart. He's got emotional baggage. And his kids are out of the diaper phase. Of course, I'd marry him. I'm assuming Chandler is the skinniest version, so bang. And I just can't with the Joey dumb, kill. JORDAN MONROE SCHULTZ, WEB EDITOR

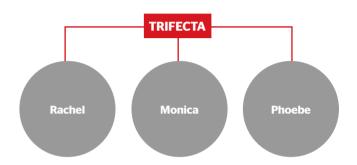
BANG: Joey MARRY: Ross KILL: Chandler

Ross is so nice and Joey is too dumb for anything else.

JESSICA CANTARELLI, METROMIX EDITOR

BANG: Joey MARRY: Chandler KILL: Ross

Though Ross is maybe my favorite character and Joey is delightful, neither possess the irresistible combo of humor and sexpertise—thanks to Monica and Rachel's detailed lesson on the seven erogenous zones—of Mr. Bing. GWENDOLYN PURDOM, COPY EDITOR



BANG: Rachel MARRY: Phoebe KILL: Monica

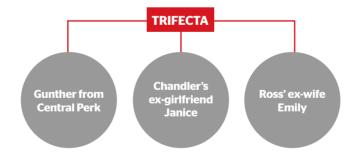
Pheebs is a masseuse, a musician, an artist and an animal lover. What more could you ask for in a spouse? Also, Monica's the worst. G.P.

BANG: Rachel, Phoebe and Monica

I like to color outside the lines and pretend I'm allowed to change the rules of games. Therefore, in my version of this game, I bang the women of "Friends." A lot. And there'd be multiple cameras and a studio audience so they're comfortable. SEAN ELY, VIDEO EDITOR

BANG: Phoebe MARRY: Monica KILL: Rachel

What can I say? I like a clean house.
LISA ARNETT, LIFESTYLES EDITOR



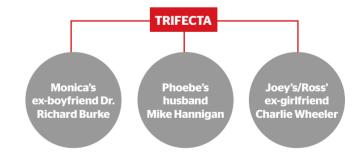
BANG: Gunther MARRY: Janice KILL: Emily (multiple times) Yeah, Janice would get annoying but I feel like Gunther has a lot of pent-up sexual energy we're all overlooking. G.P.

BANG: Emily MARRY: Gunther KILL: Janice

OH. MY. GAWD. I'd kill Janice before she killed my soul with her cackling. Jessica THOMPSON, DESIGNER

BANG: Janice MARRY: Gunther KILL: Emily

I really grappled with this one, to be honest. I figure that Janice would at least be entertaining, former soap opera actor Gunther would be fun to watch TV with and Emily is just unbearable. L.A.



BANG: Mike MARRY MARRY MARRY: Richard KILL: Charlie

I love Richard, OK? Monica shoulda locked that down. G.P.

BANG: Charlie MARRY: Mike KILL: Richard

If you haven't dreamed of marrying Paul Rudd and having adult relations with Aisha Tyler, you're a liar. s.e.

BANG: Mike MARRY: Charlie KILL: Richard

Pro tip for dating/sexing me: I like 'em older, but not wrinkly. Richard—kill. Mike Hannigan is the hot version of Ross. Bang. Charlie Wheeler: genius, beautiful and can put up with Ross. Marry. (Why is Ross my yardstick on this one?) J.s.



REUTERS FILE

If I was Angelina Jolie, I wouldn't be upset if someone was saying I had minimal talent, considering how many amazing things she's been able to do with her career, both onscreen and now as a director—and certainly as a humanitarian."

-Mark Wahlberg (above), to Vulture, on how celebrties should be reacting to the recent Sony email leaks in which studio executives were, well, let's say less than polite.

THE DIGIT

15 PERCENT

That's how much the sales of Legos jumped after "The Lego Movie" was released in February, making it the world's largest toy brand, thr.com reports. Creators Chris Miller and Phil Lord also said they had to fight with studio execs to keep the film's live-action scenes intact. "What we told the studio was, if it didn't work, we had a backup plan. We

didn't have a backup plan," Miller said.



We at RedEye have been making the Wreath Witherspoon joke for years, so we were just delighted when an actual Witherspoon wreath showed up on last week's episode of "The Mindy Project." So, what does the real-life Reese Witherspoon think about the whole thing? She's totally jolly! The actress retweeted a collage of Wreath Witherspoons with the caption. "The many variations of #WreathWitherspoon via @mindykaling!!!Haha...Love itill" This just warms our little grinch hearts.



Leto style

Are you yearning for a little more Jared Leto (left) in your life? The musician/actor has just made that one step easier, MTV reports. that he just added a new section to his merch store, jaredletomerch.com, called "Just Like Jared." There. you'll find all kinds of crap Jared wears and uses, including fanny packs, T-shirts and a book of "intimate photos" taken by Jared

GETTING AWAY WITH IT

Viola Davis (left) is thrilled to jump out of the typecasting bubble with her leading role on "How To Get Away With Murder." "I've always been very maternal in my roles, very sassy or no-nonsense. This was a chance for me to break out of all of that," she told The Hollywood Reporter of her ruthless lawyer Annalise Keating. The part already has garnered her a SAG and Golden Globe nomination, so it looks like she's not the only fan.



THE DIGIT

\$23,000 That's how much a man paid to kiss
"Glee" star Dianna Agron (above) on
the cheek at a Swiss fundraiser, eonline.com reports. According to
El's super-sleuthy eyewitness, the man was there with his girlfriend,
who probably won't be handing out any free kisses anytime soon.